

Advancement for Low-Wage Workers: Old Issues, New Possibilities

May 11, 2009

Janet Yellen

Janet L. Yellen took office as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco on June 14, 2004. As a 2009 voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, Dr. Yellen brings her District's perspective to policy discussions in Washington.

Dr. Yellen is Professor Emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley where she was the Eugene E. and Catherine M. Trefethen Professor of Business and Professor of Economics and has been a faculty member since 1980. Dr. Yellen earlier took leave from Berkeley for five years starting August 1994 when she served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System through February 1997, and then left the Fed to become Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers through August 1999. She also chaired the Economic Policy Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development from 1997 to 1999.

Dr. Yellen graduated summa cum laude from Brown University with a degree in economics in 1967, and received her PhD in Economics from Yale University in 1971. An Assistant Professor at Harvard University from 1971 to 1976, Dr. Yellen served as an economist with the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors in 1977 and 1978, and on the faculty of the London School of Economics and Political Science from 1978 to 1980.

Dr. Yellen has written on a wide variety of macroeconomic issues, while specializing in the causes, mechanisms and implications of unemployment.

Harry Holzer

Harry J. Holzer is a Professor of Public Policy at Georgetown University and a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute in Washington DC. He is a former Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Labor and a former Professor of Economics at Michigan State University. He received his A.B. from Harvard in 1978 and his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard in 1983. He is a Senior Affiliate of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan and a Research Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program and a member of the editorial board at the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.

Dr. Holzer's research has focused primarily on the labor market problems of low-wage workers and other disadvantaged groups. His books include *The Black Youth Employment Crisis* (coedited with Richard Freeman, University of Chicago Press, 1986); *What Employers Want: Job Prospects for Less-Educated Workers* (Russell Sage Foundation, 1996); *Employers and Welfare Recipients: The Effects of Welfare Reform in the Workplace* (with Michael Stoll, Public Policy Institute of California, 2001); *Moving Up or Moving On: Who Advances in the Low-Wage Labor Market* (with Fredrik Andersson and Julia Lane), Russell Sage Foundation, 2005; *Reconnecting Disadvantaged Young Men* (with Peter Edelman and Paul Offner), Urban Institute Press, 2006; and *Reshaping the American Workforce in a Changing Economy* (coedited with Demetra Nightingale), Urban Institute Press, 2007.

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Abby Snay

Abby Snay began her career with JVS 32 years ago as a part-time counselor for high school students and served as assistant director for several years before being named executive director of JVS in 1984. Snay has been instrumental in the growth of JVS, from funding and staffing to programs and partnerships. Under Snay's leadership, JVS has received the Achievement in Employment Award by the Mayor's Committee for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in 2000 and the Enterprise Foundation's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development in 2001.

Snay's service over the years has included an appointment by Mayor Gavin Newsom to the Universal Health Care Council in 2006, as well as the Employment, Education and Training Committee and the Business Advisory Committee of the Mayor's Welfare Reform Task Force in San Francisco. She served on the Mission Bay Community Advisory committee and the San Francisco County Leadership Board of the United Way, and has participated in the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership San Francisco Program and the IAJVS Executive Director's Council. In 2008, the San Francisco Business Times named Snay as one of the Bay Area's 100 Most Influential Women. An active member of the community, Snay served on the San Francisco Workforce Investment Board and its Executive Committee from 2000 to 2008.

A native of Chicago, Snay holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Counseling from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She has also completed executive education programs at Harvard School of Business and Stanford Graduate School of Business.